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Providing for graduate student information needs at a large research university

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Providing for Graduate Student Information Needs at a Large Research University

August 21, 2007

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Chemical Information Specialist

Purdue University Libraries

Today's talk

- Background
- The Many Aspects of a Grad Student
- “Traditional” Services
- “Non-Traditional” Services
- Future / Additional Considerations

Chemistry Department at Purdue

~60 Faculty

~43 Faculty active in research

~310 Graduate students

~60 new graduate students each fall

~200 Undergraduate majors

~30 graduates each year



Information Specialists at Purdue

- Meant to combat the notion of “silos”
- Current Information Specialists:
 - Chemical
 - Molecular Biosciences
 - Biomedical Sciences
 - Agricultural Sciences
 - GIS

Think of Graduate Students As:

- Students
- TAs
- Researchers
- Job seekers
- Potential information professionals

“Traditional” Services

Orientation and Tours

- Prospective Student tours
- Summer Research Library Tours
- Fall Orientation

“Traditional” Services

Instruction and Outreach

- Grad Courses (one shots)
- Chemistry 513 course
- Ice Cream Seminars

Purpose of the Seminars

- Focus on new graduate students
- Awareness of Libraries and their services
- Teach how to choose appropriate resources
- Help with Original Proposition (OP)

Format of the Seminars

- Lecture setting in seminar room
- Informal atmosphere
- No registration
- 1 hour, every other week
- Early evening
- Incentive – Ice cream!

Seminar Topics and Content

- Resource based
 - Mainly in Fall Semester
 - Focus on one or two resources per seminar
- Topic based
 - Mainly in Spring Semester
 - Focus on topic, incorporating multiple resources

Typical Fall Semester

- SciFinder Scholar
- Beilstein – Fact and Text Searching
- Beilstein – Structure and Reaction Searching
- SPRESI^{web} and comparison
- EndNote
- + one other

Spring Semester - Topical

- Property Searching and Data Manipulation
- Patents and Intellectual Property
- Chemical Industry and Business Information
- Citation Searching and JCR
- Current Awareness Services
- SciFinder in Industry

Binder System

- 3-ring binder
- Clear cover has semester schedule insert
- Handouts have holes punched
- Meant to encourage repeat attendance
- Places further emphasis on content
- A growing resource kept at-hand

Most / Least Attended

- Most attended
 - SciFinder Scholar
 - EndNote
 - Citation Searching / JCR
 - Current Awareness Services
- Least attended
 - Spectra
 - Property Searching and Data Manipulation

Evaluation Results

- Overall very positive
- Want more hands-on experience
- Want practice problems/examples
- Almost exclusively from chem department

Other Benefits

- Get to know first year grad students
- Learn how they are using these resources
- Help each other troubleshoot
- Works by word-of-mouth as well
- Way into research groups

“Traditional” Services

Marketing and Advertisement

- Articles in GSAB Newsletter
- Graduate student listserv
- This Week in Chemistry (Departmental Calendar)

“Non-Traditional” Services

- After hours access and “talk”
- OP Help Session
 - Sponsored by Iota Sigma Pi - National Honor Society of Women in Chemistry
- Other libraries’ seminars
 - Engineering
 - Life Sciences

“Non-Traditional” Services

- Research groups
 - EndNote
 - ChemDraw
- Computational Chemistry Lab
- Talk about roles of information specialists

Future / Additional Considerations

- Hire graduate assistant for computational chemistry lab
- Create graduate chemical information course
- Interact more with student & research groups